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To the CURIOUS.

*Clare Court.*

AS News-paper Squabbles are a sort of Writing with which I am little acquainted, and have less Inclination to enter into, (having observed that few are so happy as to avoid personal Reflections) I had almost resolved to take no Notice of the many repeated Falshoods and Misrepresentations, in the several Advertisements lately published by the Editor of *The History and Proceedings of the House of Commons in 3 Volumes*, for twenty Years only, viz. from the Death of Queen *Ann* to the Year 1734. But as my Silence may possibly be taken for a tacit Acknowledgment of what he has falsely asserted, either in Disparage-  
ment

ment of my Edition, or in Praise of his own, I am obliged to say something in my own Defence, especially as he set me at Defiance, in *Common Sense* of the 28th of March, to name any one Falshood he had asserted, on pain of being fixed (as he is pleased to express it) *with the glaring Title of Liar.*

This Challenge was indeed something extraordinary from a Man, who had but a few Days before contradicted himself; for in the *Champion* of the 3d of the same Month of March, he positively asserted, that *ONE Page of his Edition in three Volumes, contained near seven Pages of my Edition in nine Volumes;* and in the *Champion* of the 17th of the same Month he as positively asserted, that *THREE Pages of his Edition contained near seven of mine.*

Surely, both these Assertions cannot be true; for if it be true, that seven Pages of my Edition are equal to three of his, it cannot be true, that seven Pages of mine are equal to no more than one of his; and therefore I must conclude, that his Memory must be very short, or his Modesty not very great.

But in order to demonstrate that both these Assertions are equally false, though not equally glaring, I shall compare one of the fullest Pages in his Edition with one of the fullest in mine; which every impartial Man must allow to be a proper Method for computing how many Pages of my Edition can be supposed to be contained in three Pages or in one of his. For this Purpose I shall take the 56th Page of his first Volume, which is one of the fullest in any of the three, and in this Page there are 2218 Letters, as every one may see that will be at the Pains to number them: Then I shall take the 45th Page of the 7th Volume of my Edition, which is one of the fullest of any of the nine (except the *Appendix* to Vol. 7th) and in this Page there are 1550 Letters: the Difference between 1550 and 2218 is 668, which is not a half of 1550, and therefore one of his Pages can in general be supposed to contain not one and a half of mine, and consequently three of his Pages cannot contain four and a half of mine.

This is such a clear Demonstration of the Falshood of both his Assertions, that when it was published in *Common Sense*, April 11th, the only Reply he made to it was, to say with his usual Modesty, in *Common Sense* April 18th, *That my Calculation was false,* without attempting to shew, how it was so. In *Common Sense* March 28, he adds a third Falshood, by asserting, that his three Volumes contain as much as seven of mine; which is the most unlucky Lie that ever any Blunderbus could be guilty of, because it will make the Publick take Notice, that though he may have more Letters in a Page, yet I have more Sheets in a Volume, and consequently the Difference between one Volume of my Edition and one Volume of his, cannot be so great, as between one of my Pages and one of his.

To



To make this manifest, I shall pursue the former Calculation, by supposing every one of his Pages to contain as many Letters as the Page I have already taken Notice of, that is 2218 Letters, which multiplied by 16 the Number of Pages in a Sheet, makes 35488 Letters in a Sheet, and this again by 80, the Number of Sheets in his three Volumes, makes 2,839,040 Letters in the whole.

Then again, supposing each of my Pages to contain as many Letters as the Page I have already taken Notice of, that is 1550 Letters, which multiplied by 16, the Number of Pages in a Sheet, makes 24800 Letters in a Sheet, and this again by 100 $\frac{1}{2}$  the Number of Sheets in three of my Volumes only, *viz.* the 7th, 8th and 9th, makes the Number of Letters in these three Volumes only, amount to 2,492,400, which is but 346640 Letters more in his whole three Volumes than there are in three of mine only; and consequently his three Volumes cannot contain so much as three and a half of mine. From whence it is evident, that supposing the Paper and Print of the two Editions to be equal, mine must be a better Pennyworth than his, because three Volumes and a half of mine, at 5*s.* a Volume, being the Price my Edition is sold at, amount to but 17*s. 6d.* and his three Volumes at 6*s.* a Volume, being the Price his is sold at, amounts to 18*s.* But when it is considered that my Edition is printed upon a fine Paper, and with a large, clear, beautiful Letter; and his Edition upon a coarse nasty Paper, on a pitiful small Letter, my Edition must be allowed to be by far the best Pennyworth, especially considering that the Purchaser of 3 Volumes and a half of mine has for 17*s. 6d.* above 36 Sheets of Paper more than the Purchaser of his three Volumes has for 18*s.*

The Calculations I have made are sufficient for shewing the Falshood of every thing he has asserted, but to make it still more plain, and to shew that this Method of Calculation is more favourable for his Edition than it deserves, I must desire the Reader to turn to the very first Leaf of his first Volume where he will see p. 2 the Lords Justices Speech upon his late Majesty's Acceision, which there takes up exactly one Page; and then I must desire him to turn to Page 258 of my 6th Volume where he will see the same Speech Word for Word, which there takes up one Page and 13 Lines, or a Third of a Page; consequently three Pages or three Sheets of his are equal but to four of mine; and as his three Volumes contain but 80 Sheets and three of mine contain 100 $\frac{1}{2}$ , therefore his three Volumes cannot contain so much as three Volumes and one fifth of a Volume of mine; from whence it appears that the Purchaser of my Edition has more for 16*s.* than the Purchaser of his Edition has for 18*s.*

Having now fully answered this Editor's modest Challenge, and having proved him guilty, I believe to his own Conviction, I shall not trouble the Publick any farther by disputing with a Person who seems determined to support one Falshood by asserting another ; therefore I shall take my Leave of him, and refer the Curious to the following Summary of the Contents of the 9 Volumes now published, by which (though far short of the full Contents) it will appear, that there are almost six Volumes containing the Proceedings in Parliament for 47 Years, before the Period at which the Edition in three Volumes begins ; and a Collection containing all the material Debates, both of the Lords and Commons, together with some scarce and valuable Tracts relative thereto, must certainly be allowed to be more complete, than any Collection can be made, which is to contain the Extract of the Debates of the Commons only.

As to the Merit of the Work itself I shall conclude with the following Quotation from the Preface to the 9 Volumes.

*What is now offer'd to the Publick is a Collection from a great Number of Books, many of which are scarce and bear a great Price, from a few Years after the Restoration to this present Time. Many Things have been omitted which would have swelled its Bulk, but would have added little to its Usefulness or Entertainment. The greatest Care was taken to prevent any Thing that might look like Party Business in it ; nothing was designedly left out, which was not judged to be spurious, or not agreeable to the Design of such a Collection ; nor any Thing added merely on Account of its being favourable to any Party. And the Reader may be assured, that there is not any Debate published in this Collection, but with a View to give some Light into the History and Constitution of England, or to teach some important Lesson in Politics ; either by pointing out the Dangers that attend the public Liberty, from the Encroachments of the Court, and the open and secret Attacks which have been made upon the Constitution from that Quarter, or the low mean Arts which have been employ'd by Party-men to throw every Thing into Confusion, in order to gratify private interested Views, under the Name of Patriotism. In short, whatever appear'd to have been spoken or done in either of the Houses, which had any Tendency to what should be the chief View of such a Collection, has, as far as proper Materials could be procured, been faithfully inserted. And as there are many very curious and remarkable Speeches made in the Scotch Parliament, especially about the Time of the Union, the Reader will not probably be ill pleased to meet with them in this Collection.*

A Summary of the Contents of a Collection  
of Parliamentary Debates in *England*, in  
Nine Volumes.

VOL. I. from 1668 to 1680.

**D**UKE of Buckingham's Speech relating to the East India Company, and Mr. Skinner.—Lord Lucas's Speech on the Subsidy Bill.—Two Conferences on the Money Bill, with Lords and Commons Reasons.—Lord Shaftesbury's Speech against the Dutch.—Commons Address against Indulgence; the King's Answer: their 2d Address.—A Bill for Ease of Protestant Dissenters.—Address against Papists.—The Test Act brought in by E. of Shaftesbury, and supported by E. of Bristol; D. of Buckingham's Speech in Defence of himself against the House of Commons.—Resolutions of the House against a Standing Army; K. Speech at the Opening of the 14 Sessions of the long Parliament.—Mr. Locke's Account of that Sessions.—Proceedings relating to an Appeal brought by Dr. Shirley against Sir John Fagg, &c.—Lord Shaftesbury's Speech in a Debate thereon.—Protestation and Reasons of several Lords for the Dissolution of this Parliament; and two seasonable Discourses thereupon.—D. of Buckingham's Speech for Toleration.—A Letter concerning the Proceedings of the Parliament 1675.—The K. four Speeches at the Opening of the 16, 17 and 18 Sessions of the long Parliament.—The D. of Buckingham's Speech to prove the Long Parliament dissolved, for which he and three other Lords are committed to the Tower.—The Common's Examinations and Resolutions concerning the Popish Plot.—Agreed to by the Lords.—Secretary Williamson sent to the Tower, the King releases him, the Commons Address and the King's Answer and Speech to both Houses, Bill to disable Papists to sit in Parliament, and Proceedings against the E. of Danby, Articles against him, his Speech in the H. of Lords, and Ld Caernarvon's Speech in his Defence.—K. prorogues and dissolves the Parliament, The third Parliament meets, K. Speech, Ld Chancellor Finch's Speech.—Commons Representation of K. refusing to approve the Speaker they had chosen, K. Answer and Commons Address; the King prorogues the Parliament.—The 2d Sessions the Commons prosecute the E. of Danby, Mr. Powel's Speech against him, with the whole Proceedings.—Ld Shaftesbury's Speech in the H. of Lords.—The Commons Address against the D. of Lauderdale.—The Commons resolve to bring in the Exclusion Bill against the Duke of York, Proceedings against the 5 Lords.—The Substance of the Exclusion Bill, the Parliament prorogued and dissolved

solved, a curious Letter concerning the same.—The 4th Parliament meet, the K. Speech, the *Ld Ruffel* moves for the bringing in the Exclusion Bill, Sir *H. Capel* seconds him in a Speech.—The whole Debates thereupon.—Debates concerning the Petition of the Company of Silk Weavers, a Message from the K. and the Commons Address, the engrossed Bill against the D. of *York*, and the Debates thereon, the King's Message about *Tangier*, and Debate thereon, and Commons Address.—Debate concerning the dismissing a Grand-Jury in *Middlesex*.—The King's Speech to both Houses, and Debate of the Commons concerning it.—A Debate in a Grand Committee, how to secure the Kingdom against Popery and arbitrary Government.

## VOL. II. from 1680 to 1692.

**P**Roceedings against Sir *William Scroggs* L. C. Justice and other Judges.—Debates in the House of Commons on the *Irish Plot*.—Continuation of the Debates on the *Exclusion Bill*. A List of the House of Commons in 1680.—Debates in the House of Commons at *Oxford* on the Exclusion of the D. of *York*, and concerning *Fitzbarris*.—Eight Speeches of *Hen. Booth*, afterwards E. of *Warrington*, viz. 1st, for the Exclusion Bill, 2d, against arbitrary and illegal Imprisonments by Privy Council. 3d, Against the Bishops voting in Cases of Blood. 4th, Against Pensioners. 5th, For the sitting of Parliaments, and against Favourites. 6th, On some Justices being put out of Commission. 7th, For banishing Papists. 8th, Of the Corruptions of Judges.—A Debate between the Lords and Commons on the Vacancy of the Throne, and the Word *Abdicated*.—Declaration of both Houses of Parliament, concerning the Misgovernment of K. *James* the 2d, and filling up the Throne.—Declaration of the Estates of *Scotland* on the Misgovernment of King *James* the VIIth, and the filling up the Throne.—The Coronation Oaths of *England* and *Scotland*.—Proposals to the *Convention* for settling the Government.—The *Convention* proved a legal *Parliament*.—Thoughts about the Justice of the Gentlemen's Undertaking at *York*.—Debates on the Bill for regulating Trials for High Treason.—The King's Speech.—Earl of *Mulgrave*'s Speech on free and impartial Proceedings in Parliament, House of Commons order a Pamphlet to be burnt, entitled, King *William* and Queen *Mary* Conquerors.—Address of the Commons on the State of *Ireland*, the King's Speech, and the Representation of the Commons on the King's refusing his Assent to the Bill, touching free and impartial Proceedings in Parliament. APPENDIX. Earl of *Shaftesbury*'s Speech on the Popish Plot and the Exclusion Bill.—A just and modest Vindication of the two last Parliaments 1680.—LORDS PROTESTS against refusing

refusing to appoint a Committee to enquire into the State of the Kingdom.—On the Impeachment of Sir *William Scroggs*.—On the Bill for abrogating the Oaths of Allegiance.—On the Bill for uniting the Subjects.—On the Commons Amendments to the Bill for abrogating the Oaths.—On censuring a Paper of *Titus Oates*.—On refusing to reverse the Judgment against *Titus Oates* and Sir *Samuel Barnadiston*.—On the Bill of Rights.—On the Trial of Peers in full Parliament.—On the Bill to restore Corporations.—Concerning Advice to his Majesty.—On rejecting the Bill for free and impartial Proceedings in Parliament.—On the Bill for re-recognizing K. *William* and Q. *Mary*.—On expunging the former Protestantation.—On the House refusing to receive Petitions for protecting their Majesty's Servants.—On the Bill for impartial Proceedings in Parliament, and agree with the Commons—against the Vote of Approbation of the Admirals, against entring written Protections.

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peachments dismissed.—King's last Speech with Lords and Commons Address, Q. Ann's Speech, the Address of both Houses, and several Books censured by the Lords.—Queen's Speeches, Addresses of both Houses, and Proceedings against the Bishop of Worcester.—Queen's Message and Commons Address about Ld Marlborough.—Proceedings and Debates on the *Occasional Conformity Bill*.—Commons Address about Grievances, with the Lords Address and Remarks on the foregoing.—Proceedings of the Scotch Parliament 1703.—Bill for Security of the Kingdom, Mr. Fletcher's Speech for it, and for conferring all Offices by Ballot; farther Proceedings on the Act of Security; Marquis of Anandale's Protest.—Bill for the Hanover Succession in Scotland.—Q. refuses her Assent to the Act of Security, and the Union Treaty put off. APPENDIX. LORDS PROTEST on holding frequent Parliaments.—On making Perjury Felony in some Cases.—Against Descents of Baronies by Writ.—About the Bill to regulate Coinage.—On Sir Richard Verney's Petition for a Writ of Summons.—Against the Bill to prevent double Returns of Members.—About the Bill against wearing wrought Silks.—On the Bill for regulating Elections.—On the Trial of Goudey and others at the Bar.—Against the Bill for settling the *East India Trade*.—Against granting an Aid for disbanding the Army.—In the Case of Williamson and the King.—On the Settlement of the Scotch at Darien.—Against dissolving the Duke of Norfolk's Marriage.—Against granting an Aid to the King by Irish Forfeitures.—On the same.—Against the Bill for separating the Earl and Countess of Anglesea.—Against expunging a Fact relating to the Partition Treaty.—Four Protests on the same Treaty.—Against addressing in Favour of the 4 impeached Lords.—Against expunging the last Protest.—Five other Protests concerning the Trials of the Lords.—Against declaring Lord Haverham innocent.—Against a Resolution touching the printed Votes of the Commons.—Against the Bill for attainting the late K. James's Wife.—Against the Amendments to a Bill for securing his Majesty's Person.—Against several Clauses in a Bill relating to the Prince of Denmark.—On an Appeal of Lord Wharton.—On the Bill for qualifying Members of the House of Commons.—Against printing the Occasional Conformity Bill.—Against passing the Bill for raising Recruits.—On Sir John Maclean's Narrative to the Earl of Nottingham.—A List of both Houses of Parliament in 1703.

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an Elector, who is denied his Vote for Member of Parliament, with the several Speeches thereupon? The Case of *Denzil Onslow*, Esq; the Speeches of Mr. *Harley*, Mr. *Brewer*, Sir *Thomas Powis*, Sir *John Hawles*, Sir *Edward Seymour*, Marquis of *Huntington*, Mr. *Lowndes*, Sir *Simon Harcourt*, Mr. *Dormer*, Sir *Joseph Jekyll*, Sir *Thomas Meres*, Mr. *Cowper*, Sir *Humphrey Mackworth*, Sir *Gilbert Dolben*, Mr. *King*, Sir *Thomas Littleton*, Mr. *Serjeant Hooper*, Sir *William Strickland*, Mr. *Walpole*, Marquis of *Huntington*, Sir *Christopher Musgrave*, Mr. *St. John*, &c. with the several Reports, Arguments, and Resolutions of both Houses thereupon, with the Opinions of L. C. J. *Holt*, Judge *Gould*, and Judge *Powel*; also the Representations of the Lords, and the Addresses of the Commons to the Queen, with several Precedents of the Journals of each House relating thereto.—

Proceeding of Both Houses on the *Occasional Conformity Bill*.

—Debates in the Scotch Parliament, Speeches of the *High Commissioner*, Lord Chancellor, E. of *Cromarty*.—Two Speeches on the *Hanover Succession*.—The *Act of Security* and *High Commissions Speech* on passing it.—Farther Proceedings of the Scotch Parliament; the Queen's Letter, and the High Commissioner, and Ld Chancellor's Speeches, the Proceedings thereupon.—Proceedings of the English Parliament, Queen's Speech, Lords and Commons Addresses, and Ld *Haversham's* Speech.—Debate in the House of Lords concerning the Danger of the Church.—Speeches on that Occasion of Ld *Rochester*, Bishop of *London*, Bishop of *Salisbury*, Archbishop of *York*, Ld *Wharton*, Bishop of *Ely*, Bishop of *Lichfield* and *Coventry*, Bishop of *Bath* and *Wells*, and Ld *Somers*; Resolution of the Lords that the Church was in no Danger.—Protest of the Lords against the said Resolution.—The Queen's Proclamation concerning the Danger of the Church.

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## VOL. VI. from 1712 to 1717.

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their Report.—Lord *Bolingbroke*, Earl of *Oxford*, Duke of *Ormond*, and Earl of *Strafford* impeached, Debates thereupon. Articles against the Earl of *Oxford*. The Earls Speech and Answer to the Articles and Debates thereupon. King's Speech, and Mr. *Lechmere*'s Speech concerning the Rebellion.—Earl of *Derwentwater* and 6 other Lords impeached of High Treason.—Proceedings in Both Houses, on the Bill for repealing the *Triennial Act*. The Debates and Protest in the House of Lords.—Debates in the House of Commons, with the Speeches of Mr. *Lyddal*, Mr. *Shippen*, Mr. *Hampden*, Sir *Richard Steel*, Mr. *Bromley*, Sir *Robert Raymond*, and Mr. *Tufnell*.—Preamble of the *Land-Tax Bill* gives Offence to the Lords.—Bill for allowing Council in Cases of Treason, rejected by the Commons, and passed the Bill to enable his Majesty to visit his *German* Dominions.—King's Message for a supply against *Sweden*, Debates and Speeches thereupon, by Mr. *Poukney*, Mr. *Stanhope*, Mr. *Smith*, Mr. *Barrington Stute*, and Mr. *Young*.—A full Account of the Earl of *Oxford*'s Trial, with the Resolutions, Debates and Speeches of both Lords and Commons, viz. Duke of *Buckingham*, Ld *North* and *Grey*, Earl of *Sunderland*, Ld *Coningsby*, and Ld High Steward, Mr. *Tufnell*, Mr. *Shippen*, Mr. *Lechmere*, Mr. *Hampden* and others.—A free Conference, with the Commons Reasons, and the Lords Answer, Lord *Oxford* is acquitted, a Vote for an Address against him, a Conference of both Houses on a free and general Pardon, King's Speech and Conclusion of the Sessions.

## VOL. VII. from 1717 to 1721.

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mons from King *Henry* the VIIIth.—List of the Scotch Peers.—Abstracts of several Books for and against the *Peerage Bill*, Mr. —— *B*—’s Speech for the Bill.—King’s Speech and Addresses of Both Houses.—*Peerage Bill* passed the Lords, several Pamphlets on the same.—Debates in the Commons.—Speech of Sir *Richard Steele*, Sir *J. Packington*, Mr. *Craggs*, and Mr. *Robert Walpole*, the Bill rejected; two Schemes of the *South-Sea Company*, and two of the *Bank of England*, for reducing the publick Debts, the *South Sea* accepted. Debate on the Bill for securing the Dependency of *Ireland*.—A Narrative of what occasioned it.—Resolutions and Representation of *Irish* Lords in the case of *Sherlock* and *Annesley*, Duke of *Leeds*’s Protest in their Favour, and Resolutions of the *British* Lords, on the Proceedings of the *Irish* Lords.—Act securing the Dependency of *Ireland*.—Debate of the Lords on the *South Sea Bill*.—Resolutions of the *South Sea Company*, and other Proceedings on the same.—King’s Speech 1720. Lords and Commons Address and Debates on *South-Sea Scheme* and Supply.—A Bill against *South-Sea Directors*, with the whole Proceedings against them. APPENDIX. An Enquiry into the Manner of creating Peers, by the late Ld Chancellor *W<sup>t</sup>l*.—A Speech in the House of Commons against repealing the *tri-annual Act* by *Archibald Hutchinson*, Esq;

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